

Amendments to the Specification

Page 22, beginning with line 22, amend as follows.

The liquid shear-stirrers 20 and 21 in Embodiments 4 to 7 are suitably those that are hardly clogged. For example, the one having the structure illustrated in ~~Fig.~~ Figs. 8A and 8B, and those having other structure or mechanism may be used. The liquid shear-stirrer shown in Fig. 8B has a rotating shaft 23 having a disk 24 attached thereto and provided with a series of vanes 25, alternately formed directed upwardly, horizontally and downwardly over the entire outer periphery thereof. One example of the size of the liquid shear-stirrer in the case of a shear-stirring tank 26 having a height of 400 to 5,000 mm and a diameter of 200 mm is suitably such that the disk 24 has a diameter on the order of 100 to 150 mm, the vane 25 has a length on the order of 10 to 20 mm and a width on the order of 10 mm. The number of rotations of the liquid shear-stirrer may vary depending on the material to be treated, type of the machine, kind of flocculating agent and the like but is preferably selected from the range on the order of 200 to 2,000 rpm, and more preferably in the range of 1,000 to 1,800 rpm.

Page 26, beginning on line 15, amend as follows.

Of the processes for treating sludge of the present invention, the processes for treating sludge using a stirring pump ~~as described in claims 1 to 8~~ have various effects as follows.